

HONORING THE W.N. GRIFFIN, JR.,  
GOSPEL CHOIR

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many organizations strive to bring awareness and enlightenment to our community; and

Whereas, the W.N. Griffin, Jr., Gospel Choir formed in November, 1944 presents the gospel through songs of praise and inspiration touching the lives of thousands throughout the world; and

Whereas, today we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of not only a choir, but a ministry that started with the leadership of Reverend J.S. Roddy and seven (7) choir members which has now grown to one hundred twenty (120) members; and has been and continues to be a great gift by witnessing the gospel through music; and

Whereas, our beloved District has a jewel in this choir that touches the hearts, minds and souls of so many; and

Whereas, our community has been strengthened, our lives have been touched and our spirits uplifted by this anointed choir that shares so freely of themselves; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the W.N. Griffin, Jr., Gospel Choir of Saint Philip A.M.E. Church for its outstanding service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim February 9, 2014 as The W.N. Griffin, Jr. Gospel Choir Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of February, 2014.

FIRST LIEUTENANT DIANNE WOLF

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor First Lieutenant Dianne Wolf for her service to our country.

Lieutenant Wolf served in the United States Army Nurse Corps from September 1969 to August 1971. During her service as an Army Nurse, she served a year of duty in Vietnam with the 91st Evacuation Hospital, Republic of Vietnam. She is most proud of having had the opportunity to serve as a nurse while on active duty, including her tour in Vietnam.

After her service, Lieutenant Wolf was hired by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs where she continued to serve for over 30 years, caring for veterans from various wars and conflicts.

Through your courageous service, Lieutenant Wolf charted the path for future generations of women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to First Lieutenant Dianne Wolf for her dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America and the Veterans she has served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 19, 2014, due to a family funeral, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 218, "yea;" on rollcall No. 219, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 222, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BUSINESS WOMEN'S FORUM

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Business Women's Forum which is celebrating 20 years of supporting female professionals in South Central Pennsylvania.

Since its founding in 1994, the Business Women's Forum has brought together businesswomen and leaders from the South Central region of Pennsylvania for a one day event where they can meet with and learn from other women with a variety of backgrounds and organizations. Today, in partnership with more than nine Central Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce, it is the largest one-day professional development and tradeshow event in the Central Pennsylvania region. By offering women with opportunities to develop their professional skills and plan for the future, the Business Women's Forum provides an invaluable resource to the businesswomen of South Central Pennsylvania and to the economic vitality of the region.

Mr. Speaker, for their efforts in creating a strong workforce of skilled and developed businesswomen, I thank the Business Women's Forum for their contributions to our state and congratulate them on reaching the momentous milestone of their 20th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO HAGOP AND KNAR  
MANJIKIAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hagop Jack Manjikian and Knar Rita Manjikian for the books they have published on the Armenian Genocide. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians perished between 1915 and 1923, but the statistics only tell part of the story. The first person accounts of the Genocide, which the Manjikian had translated to

English in order to reach a broad audience, put a human face on the violence and suffering experience by the Armenians, as well as their unflagging will to survive.

"The Fatal Night"—(Volume 2) Mikayel Shamtanchian was among the hundreds of Armenian intellectuals rounded up on the night of April 24, 1915, and deported to the interior of Turkey, where the Turkish genocide of Armenians began. The author beat the odds and survived the first genocide of the 20th century. His memoir, *The Fatal Night*, is a detailed account of the extermination of Turkey's Armenian cultural and civic leadership in 1915. Shamtanchian recorded the fates of the innocent Armenian luminaries who perished in Anatolia—the echoes of "Lord, Have Mercy," the last hymn sung by the Armenian priest and music ethnologist Komitas and a throng of exiles held in a Turkish military fort, and the pangs of authors Daniel Varuzhan and Sevak as they were slaughtered in the field of death called Ayash. The book provides a partial list of the Armenian intellectuals, civic leaders and priests who were martyred during the Genocide.

"Death March" (Volume 3)—Shahen Derderian was barely eight years old when the Ottoman Turkish government deported his family, along with the entire Armenian community of his native Sebastia (now Sivas). The uprooting was part of an elaborate Turkish plan to exterminate the Armenian population of Anatolia. In the ensuing forced marches, the Sebastia caravan—one among countless others—was subjected by the Turkish police and hired criminals to a systematic spree of murder, robbery, rape, and death by starvation and disease. Young Shahen Derderian survived the carnage through sheer miracle. In *Death March*, he tells a harrowing story of dehumanization and loss, whose enormity would eventually be matched only by the Armenian survivors' spirit of renewal.

"The Crime of the Ages" (Volume 4)—In 1919 Sebuhan Aguni chronicled the large-scale plunder, deportations, and massacres that were systematically perpetrated by the Turkish government in its effort to exterminate the Armenian population of Turkey. The *Crime of the Ages*—the first English translation of Aguni's study—is an invaluable work of historiography as it encompasses not only firsthand victim accounts of the Turkish atrocities, but a wealth of evidential information culled from Turkish, European, and American official sources. Brimming with the eloquent, vivid narrative of a journalist and survivor, *The Crime of the Ages* portrays, in prodigious documentary detail, one of history's most heinous crimes, the Genocide of the Armenians.

"Defying Fate" (Volume 5)—For the fifth volume of the Genocide Library, we chose the memoirs of Mr. and Mrs. Aram and Dirouhi Avedian, both of whom were survivors of the Genocide of Armenians by the Turks. Aram Avedian's writing consisted of a small book of handwritten notes titled "The dark days I've lived." Dirouhi Avedian's memoirs comprised a relatively longer, though still compact, handwritten diary titled "My life." Originally written in Armenian and translated to English, their memoirs reveal a childhood of sorrow and anguish as they relate how they lost their families and how they survived thanks to the kindness of strangers. Their infrangible faithfulness toward their cultural identity leads them to risk their lives and escape their circumstances. Amidst the tragedy, a happy ending emerges.